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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1 The present note supplements and updates as at 26 November 1999 the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/54/348) of 13 September 1999 and the note by the Secretariat to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery containing the recommendations of the Board of Trustees at its fourth session in March 1999, which have been approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General (E/CN 4/Sub 2/AC 2/1999/4 and Add 1 of 18 May and 28 June 1999 respectively) The previous note submitted to the Commission on Human Rights was document E/CN 4/1999/85 of 22 January 1999

I MANDATE, BENEFICIARIES, ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

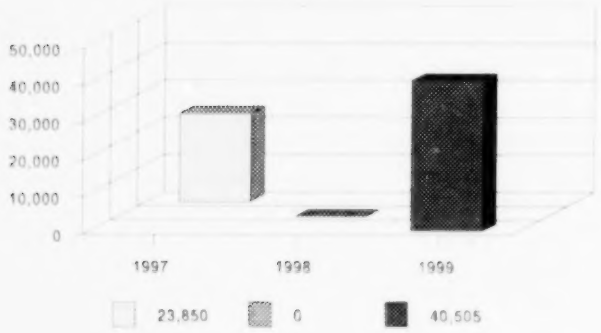
2 The purpose of the Fund, as established by the General Assembly resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991 is first, to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from different regions dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance, and second, to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery Funding can be obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, NGOs and other private or public entities

3 The Fund is administered, in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations and other relevant provisions, with the advice of a Board of Trustees The Board is composed of five persons with relevant experience in the field of human rights and contemporary forms of slavery in particular, who serve in their personal capacity, as United Nations experts and are appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution The current members of the Board of Trustees are Swami Agnivesh (Chairman), Theo van Boven, Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara, Tatiana Matveeva and José de Souza Martins

II. FINANCIAL SITUATION

A. Expenditure made in 1999 (in US$)

Table 1



- 1997: US$ 23,850 (see E/CN.4/1998/89, para. 6; A/53/339, para. 14)
- 1998: 0 (see A/53/339, para. 9)
- 1999: US$ 40,505 (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1999/4)

4. Two travel grants which had been recommended by the Board at its third session in 1997 but had been kept on a contingency list until sufficient new contributions were received, were paid on 24 March 1999 (see A/54/348, para. 12; A/53/339, para. 17).

5. At its fourth session (24-26 March 1999), the Board of Trustees reviewed all applications received and, in the light of the selection criteria established by the General Assembly, recommended 10 travel grants amounting to US$ 13,505 to enable representatives of NGOs to participate for three days in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (23 June-2 July 1999), as well as 5 project grants amounting to US$ 27,000. The list of beneficiaries, amount of grants and other relevant information is available in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1999/4, annexes I and II. All the above-mentioned recommendations have been approved and implemented and money has been spent accordingly.

B. Balance

6. After having paid all grants recommended by the Board at its fourth session, the balance of the Fund was about US$ 52,000 which will be available for the fifth session of the Board.

C. New contributions received

7. The following voluntary contributions were received after the fourth session of the Board and are available for allocation at the fifth session of the Board, provisionally scheduled to be held from 7 to 10 February 2000.

Table 2. Contributions received from Governments as at 26 November 1999

State	Amount (US$)	Paid on
France	16 357	29 Apr. 1999
Ireland	26 386	8 June 1999 a/
Poland	5 000	6 Oct. 1999
Saudi Arabia	10 000	22 July 1999
South Africa	7 589	7 Apr. 1999
Subtotal	65 332	

a/ Contribution received by the Office of Project Services. Official Receipt Voucher not yet available at OHCHR/GE.

Table 3. Contributions received from non-governmental organizations and individuals as at 26 November 1999

NGOs and individuals	Amount (US$)	Paid on
Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights (Tokyo)	671	30 Aug. 1999
Mr. Sadiq M. Marafi (Geneva)	993	7 Sept. 1999
Operazione Terzo Mondo (Albino, Italy)	1 000	10 June 1999
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa (Aichi-Ken, Japan)	336	30 Aug. 1999
Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva)	2 815	22 June 1999
Subtotal	5 815	
Grand total	77 147	

D. Pledges made

8. The Netherlands pledged on 12 November 1999 a contribution of 75,000 Netherlands guilder which should be paid to the Fund before the fifth session of the Board.

9. In addition, the Italian painter Trento Longaretti donated to the Fund the proceeds of the sale of 100 brochures of his last exhibit organized at the Palais des Nations and Palais Wilson in July-August 1999. His exhibit, entitled "La Pauvreté dans le monde" (Poverty in the World), was organized at the initiative of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office at Geneva and under the auspices of Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the Office, to coincide with the opening of the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council, where the debate was to focus on the elimination of poverty. On 5 December 1999, the

proceeds will be officially donated to the Fund on the occasion of a new exhibit organized under the auspices of the Lions Club Geneva and Ms. Milena Bellini and Ms. Bruna Bellini, at Chateau d'Allaman, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland.

III. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions

10. In its resolution 1999/46 of 27 April 1999 on contemporary forms of slavery, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for new voluntary contributions to the Fund.

11. In its resolution 1999/18 of 25 August 1999, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, inter alia, noted with satisfaction the participation of the representatives of NGOs financed by the Fund and their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group, and encouraged their activities. The Sub-Commission expressed its satisfaction to the donor Governments, NGOs and individuals, in particular the new donors, for their valuable contributions. The Sub-Commissioner urged all Governments, NGOs and other private or public entities and individuals to contribute annually on a regular basis and, if possible, before the end of the current year, to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively.

B. Appeal for funds by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

12. As requested by the Commission on Human Rights, on 4 October 1999, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments appealing to them to contribute to the Fund, drawing their attention to above-mentioned resolutions of the Commission and Sub-Commission. The High Commissioner said that she would greatly appreciate if Governments were to contribute to the Fund, if possible by the end of the year so that their contributions could be used for travel and assistance grants in the year 2000.

C. Meeting with regular donors

13. As part of the usual reporting process on the financial situation and activities of the Fund, the secretariat of the Fund and Board will organize a technical information meeting for regular donors in Geneva in December 1999, at which all relevant reports and documents on the activities of the Fund will be distributed and discussed. Donors will have the possibility to ask questions concerning the activities of the Fund. Another such occasion will take place in February, during the session of the Board.

IV. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

14. Taking into consideration the fact that requests received in 1999 amounted to about US$ 900,000, in the Board's view, in order to meet at least one third of the requests expected to be received in the year 2000, the Fund would need about US$ 300,000 in contributions.

15. In order to be duly recorded and available in time for the Board to make recommendations at its next session, scheduled to take place from 7 to 10 February 2000, new contributions have to be paid before the end of January 2000. Pledges cannot be taken into consideration. The reasons for this deadline is that travel grants to attend the Working Group have to be decided and paid well in advance of the session of the Working Group (scheduled to take place from 21 to 30 June 2000) and project grants to assist victims also have to be decided and paid at the beginning of the year in order to allow the project leaders to start assisting the victims and to be able to report on the use of the grant to the Secretariat before the end of the year.

V. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

16. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by:

(a) Bank transfer: to the United Nations Geneva General Fund

- in United States dollars, c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, New York
  A/C: 001-1-508629, UNOG General Fund,
  G/L: UN-0503456, United States Banking Code: 021000021

- or in Swiss francs, c/o UBS AG,
  P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2,
  Acc.240-CO-590-160.0, swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

(b) Cheque: to

- the United Nations Cashier's Office, United Nations, New York,
  New York 10017, United States of America, or

- the Treasurer, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations,
  CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Please be sure to make payments to the order of the "United Nations" and also to mention "for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Account SH".

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

17. For any additional information, please contact the secretariat of the Fund at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Support Services Branch, Trust Fund Unit, CH-1211 Geneva 10: tel. (41-22) 917 91 64 / 917 91 45 / 917 92 66; fax (41-22) 917 90 17; e-mail: eortado-rosich.hchr@unog.ch; dpremont.hchr@unog.ch.